Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5216

INFO DIA

USMISSION NATO

AMCONGEN MILAN

AMCONGEN NAPLES

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJECT: THE GOVERNMENT CRISIS: THE PAUSE FOR STUDY

REF: ROME 0773

- 1. AS REPORTED REFTEL, ABSENCE OF SOCIALIST AND SOCIAL DEMOCRAT LEADERS IN COPENHAGEN TO ATTEND SOCIALIST SUMMIT PROVIDED MORO WITH EXCUSE TO SUSPEND FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ON CRISIS UNTIL JANUARY 20. MAJOR ENCOUNTERS OVER NEXT TWO DAYS WILL BE MORO'S MEETING WITH SOCIALISTS JANUARY 21, AND A PSI-PCI MEETING "AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL" JANUARY 22.
- 2. FOR TUESDAY MEETING WITH SOCIALISTS, DC HAS MADE KNOWN THAT IT WILL ADOPT OPEN ATTITUDE TOWARD RECONCILING PSI ECONOMIC PROPOSALS WITH GOVERNMENT MEDIUM-TERM PLAN, BUT WILL NOT SOFTEN FLAT REFUSAL TO ASSOCIATE PCI TO GOVERNMENT. PSI HAS MADE KNOWN THAT UNTIL AND UNLESS AN AGREEMENT SATISFACTORY TO IT CAN BE REACHED ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, IT SEES NO POINT IN DISCUSSING THE PCI'S RELATIONSHIP LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO A FUTURE GOVERNMENT. PSI HAS ALSO HINTED THAT IT

WOULD ALLOW A MINORITY INTERIM GOVERMENT ACCEPTABLE TO IT TO BE FORMED, BUT WOULD NOT ITSELF BE PART OF ITS PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY. SOCIALISTS SEEM NOW PRIMARILY CONCERNED TO FIND WAY TO BLAME DC FOR CAUSING EARLY ELECTIONS, IF THEY OCCUR. THEY OPENLY ACCUSE DC OF MANEUVERING TO MAKE THEM INEVITABLE.

3. COMMUNISTS, WHO UNTIL NOW HAVE OPENLY CRITICIZED PSI
AND HELPED DRIVE THEM INTO POLITICAL CORNER, ARE NOW
INDICATING A POSSIBLE SHIFT IN TACTICS. OVER WEEKEND,
COMMUNIST SPOKESMEN MADE THE DC THEIR PRINCIPAL TARGET,
AND SHOWED A SOMEWHAT CONCILIATORY ATTITUDE TOWARD THE PSI. THE
PCI'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE IN PRESENT CRISIS REMAINS
AVOIDANCE OF EARLY ELECTIONS, AND THEY MAY HAVE CONCLUDED
THAT THERE IS SUBSTANCE TO ABOVE-MENTIONED SOCIALIST
CHARGES AGAINST THE DC. AT THE LEAST, THEY CERTAINLY
WISH TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE FOR MEETING WITH SOCIALISTS
ON WEDNESDAY. VOLPE

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